

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 938
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR EG UR LY
SUBJ: EGYPTIAN PRESS CRITICISM OF USSR

1. EGYPTIAN DAILIES JANUARY 23-24 TAKE FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL
SHOTS AT SOVIETS, WITH MOST BITTER COMMENTARY DIRECTED AT
TREATMENT OF CAIRO RIOTING IN PRAVDA AND ON RADIO MOSCOW.
GUMHURIYYA JANUARY 23 SINGLES OUT HUNGARY FOR BLAME FOR JOINING
MOSCOW-LED ANTI-GOE CAMPAIGN AND AKHBAR JANUARY 24 ASSERTS THAT
QADHAFI ("MADMAN OF LIBYA") LAUNCHED MOB AGAINST EGYPTIAN
RELATIONS OFFICE IN TRIPOLI UNDER ORDERS FROM SOVIET
MENTORS.

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2. AKHBAR'S MUSA SABRI LEADS ANTI-SOVIET CHARGE IN SCATHING
EDITORIAL JANUARY 23, DENOUNCING WHAT HE SEES AS SEEMINGLY ETERNAL
SOVIET DESIRE TO INTERFERE IN EGYPTIAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. SABRI
NOTES SOVIET DENIAL THAT EGYPTIAN COMMUNISTS INVOLVED IN
DEMONSTRATIONS AND SUGGESTS CAUSTICALLY THAT PRAVDA AND RADIO
MOSCOW APPARENTLY WISH TO SUBSTITUTE THEIR JUDGEMENT FOR THAT OF

EGYPTIAN SECURITY SERVICES, WHICH CAUGHT LOCAL COMMUNISTS IN ACT OF LEADING DEMONSTRATIONS AND DISTRIBUTING MARXIST PROPAGANDA INCITING TO RIOT.

3. AHRAM JANUARY 23 NOTES PRAVDA CRITICISM OF GOE "OPEN DOOR" POLICY AND RIPOSTS THAT SOVIET CRITICISM OF "OPEN DOOR" UTTERLY HYPOCRITICAL IN VIEW OF ITALIAN FACTORIES AND AMERICAN BANKS NOW PROLIFERATING THROUGHOUT USSR. IN ADDITION, NOTES AHRAM, SOVIET UNWILLINGNESS TO AID EGYPT FINANCIALLY, OR EVEN TO RESCHEDULE EGYPTIAN DEBTS TO MOSCOW, IN LARGE PART RESPONSIBLE FOR CURRENT EGYPTIAN FINANCIAL CRISIS. AHRAM JANUARY 24 CONTINUES ATTACK, THIS TIME NOTING RADIO MOSCOW CRITICISM OF SCANDAL SURROUNDING BOEING CONTRACT. AHRAM LEAVES INVESTIGATION OF BOEING CASE TO SOCIALIST PROSECUTOR, BUT CONCENTRATES ON ABORTED CONTRACT FOR SOVIET TU-154'S WHICH NECESSITATED BOEING CONTRACT IN FIRST PLACE. SOVIET PLANES, AHRAM RECALLS, WERE DEFECTIVE, BUT MOSCOW UNWILLING TO MAKE ANY ADJUSTMENTS, ALTHOUGH SOVIETS EVENTUALLY DID TAKE BACK AIRCRAFT. AHRAM CONCLUDES THAT, UNDER SOVIET POLICE-STATE SYSTEM, MINISTERS ACCUSED OF TAKING BRIBES WOULD DOUBTLESS ALREADY HAVE BEEN SHOT, BUT, IN DEMOCRATIC EGYPT, THOSE ACCUSED HAVE FULL OPPORTUNITY TO DEFEND THEMSELVES.

4. COMMENT: DECISION TO AUTHORIZE ANTI-MOSCOW CAMPAIGN TO COINCIDE WITH ROUND-UP OF MIDDLE AND LOWER RANKING LEFTISTS PROBABLY TAKEN AT MEETING OF "POLITICAL AND EXECUTIVE COMMANDS" JANUARY 22. MUTUAL ACIMONY CLOUDS THE ATMOSPHERE FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOVIET DEP MINFOREIGN TRADE GRISHIN, NOW SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN CAIRO JANUARY 28, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BUT CONTINUED TRADE RELATIONS ARE BENEFICIAL TO BOTH PARTIES AND SOVIETS DO HAVE OTHER INTERESTS HERE.
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